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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

032 Brandt, Zelma  
Corning/1-1553

FROM : AMEMBASSY, Monrovia  
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

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DESP. NO.

January 15, 1953  
DATE

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SUBJECT: Report on Mrs. Zelma Corning BRANDT

The following information is submitted by the Embassy concerning Mrs. Zelma Corning Brandt who lists her address as 121 Madison Avenue, New York City 16, N.Y.

Mrs. Brandt arrived Monrovia January 14 aboard the Elder Dempster ship Tulane, and was introduced to the Public Affairs Officer by Mr. Jala Massaquoi, recently naturalized Liberian citizen whose name when he lived in Cleveland was Benjamin Miller. Mr. Miller, returning from the United States also, had sent radio-grams to meet Mrs. Brandt at the ship, to both the PAO and the TCA Information Officer.

She states she is affiliated with the International League for Peace and Freedom, the Committee of 100, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the United States. Shortly before leaving she says she visited Mr. Arthur Spingarn, NAACP president. She says she has no auspices but will report voluntarily to groups she is associated with.

In talking with Mrs. Mary Fiske, YWCA president in Liberia and official of the Liberian State Department, she asked several leading questions such as was not Liberia anti-white as she had been told.

Miss Ruth Hill, American who is Liberia's YWCA advisory secretary, reported voluntarily to the PAO that 1) she referred to her friendship with Talitha Gerlach, former member of the National Staff of the Foreign Division of the U.S. YWCA, who Miss Hill understands ended a world tour a year or so ago by reportedly staying in China to work with Mme. Sun. 2) she wanted to know about immigration to Liberia for an American Negro woman who was with the Abraham Lincoln Nursing Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. Likewise, Mrs. Brandt questioned the PAO at length about immigration to Liberia for those closed out of U.S. professional life including medicine.

State Dept. review completed

*Edward R. Dudley*  
Edward R. Dudley

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